

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application, and claims 1-6 have been finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Holloway in view of Hardy et al. For the reasons that follow, and in light of the foregoing proposed amendments under Rule 116 to claim 1, Applicants request reconsideration of the present application in light of the following remarks.

In the Holloway reference, the generation of the keys is performed in the user unit (see column 3, lines 51 to 59, column 8, lines 23-25 and column 4, lines 26 to 26). At the initial registration, the user's unit generates the public and the secret keys. These keys are then securely transferred to the server to further use.

As a consequence, the step of generating key pairs at the generation center as the Applicants claim is not disclosed in Holloway.

Another difference can be found in the key encrypting of the private and public keys. In Holloway, this key encrypting is generated at the user's location (see column 8, line 21) with the pass phase PPU. This key encrypting in Holloway is therefore clearly specific to a user and not the same for different users.

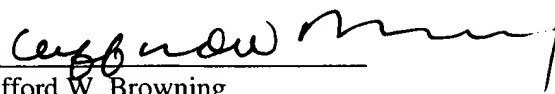
Besides, the Hardy et al. reference does not concern a key generation center, since the keys are created at the user's terminal location for the user's own use. On the contrary, the key generation center of the Applicants' present claims generates keys to be distributed to users.

For all these foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing proposed amendment to claim 1 under Rule 116, and then reconsideration of

the present application in light of the foregoing remarks, after which Applicants respectfully request allowance of amended claims 1-6 over all the prior art of record.

Respectfully submitted:

By

  
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